

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1-26 have been rejected. Claims 6, 14, 16 and 22 have been amended for clarification purposes.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 6-12, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Alford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 613, 201). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 6 of the Applicants' claimed invention recites a method for reducing latency in a group communication network in a controller, the method including receiving an indication from a communication device that a user wishes to initiate a group call. Media is received from the user prior to processing a request and buffering the received media for later transmission to another communication device.

Alford et al. discloses automatic call destination and system selection in a radio communication system. Figure 15 shows a controller 1502 that controls the radio and executes object code software from a ROM memory (not shown). The controller 1502 is operably coupled to a transceiver 1504 such that data messages can be communicated to and from the controller 1502 and the transceiver 1504, and subsequently to one of a plurality of systems with which the radio communicates. One or more actuators 1506 are coupled to the controller 1502 to allow user input and selection of at least a first call destination.

Alford et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the feature that media is received from the user prior to processing a request as claimed by the Applicants is claim 6. The Examiner refers to col. 12, lines 14-61 in particular. In col. 14, lines 15-65, Alford et al. discloses that the controller

displays the call destination for the call record that is identified as the current call destination during the process of identifying a call.

In col. 14, lines 27 to lines 33, Alford et al. discloses a method for a controller to determine whether or not a system is accessible. In the most basic configuration, the controller merely transmits a call request to the preferred system and waits for a reply. If a reply is received, the call is commenced. If a reply is not received, then the system is determined to be not accessible. In a more advanced design, the controller can also tune its receiver to receive the preferred system and monitors to determine if a data message, cell beacon, or other identifiable signal is received. This indicates that the preferred system is in radio range and that the correct system is being received, versus a co-channel system.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Alford et al. that media is received from the user prior to processing a request.

Furthermore, Alford et al. discloses two memory structures: a system memory 1512 illustrated in Figure 15 and a call record memory 1510 also shown in Figure 15. The system memory 1512 has a plurality of storage locations which are used for storing a system identifier 1520 and wherein each system identifier has at least one channel indicia 1522 associated therewith (col. 13, lines 19-24). The call record memory 1510 has a plurality of storage locations for storing call destination information 1514, preferred system information 1516, and link information 1518 (col. 13, lines 38-43).

Again, the Applicants respectfully submit that Alford et al. fails to disclose that media is received from the user prior to processing a request and buffering the received media for later transmission to another communication device. The memories disclosed in Alford et al. perform very different functionality than the buffering claimed by the Applicants.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 6 be allowed.

Claims 7-12 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 6 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 6 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 14 and 16 are independent claims that recite related subject matter to that of independent claim 6 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 6 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 13, 15 and 17-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Alford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,613,201) in view of Sigler et al. (U.S. Patent 5,717,830). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 of the Applicants' claimed invention recites in a controller, a method for reducing latency in a group communication network, the method including determining whether any media frame belonging to a communication protocol is lost, the media frame being directed to the controller, and modifying the communication protocol if a media frame is lost.

The Examiner acknowledges that the primary reference (Alford et al.) is defective, since it fails to disclose at least the feature of "determining whether any media frame belonging to a communication protocol is lost."

The Examiner then applies Sigler et al. as a secondary reference to make up for the deficiencies of the primary reference. In Sigler et al., col. 15, lines 15-30, a Remote Monitor System (RMS) is used to continuously monitor the activity on each GC-S channel and to monitor the activity within the downlink L-band spectrum in the beam in which it is located. The RMS

detects anomalous conditions such as loss of signal, loss of frame sync, excessive BER, etc. on the GC-S channels and generates alarm reports which are transmitted to the NOC via the leased line interface.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the application of the secondary reference does not cure the deficiencies of the primary reference. Sigler et al. fails to disclose at least the feature of “determining whether any media frame belonging to a communication protocol is lost.”

Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection be withdrawn and that claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 2-5 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 13, 15 and 17 are independent claims that recite related subject matter to claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 18-21 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 17 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 17 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claim 22 is an independent claim that should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented earlier regarding claim 22 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

Claims 23-26 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 22 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 22 as well as the additionally recited features found in these claims.

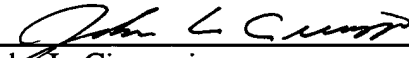
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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